Tuscaloosa, Ala.
January 29th 1834

Dear friends,

Without a personal acquaintance with any one of you, suffer a stranger in both name & person, to address you. The object of my communication, is not so much to give as to obtain information. Having learned that there was at Princeton a Society of inquiry into the condition of the heathen world with a view of aiding in ameliarating the condition of the people who are still in darkness, I have thought it advisable, & it is to me highly desirable, to open a correspondence with you upon this subject. In December last the Young Men of this place formed themselves into a "Society of Inquiry in aid of Foreign Missions" The object of the society is to obtain information respecting the condition of heathen countries, (viz into the Social Civil, Literary, & Religious condition of such countries. This is a new place with very few pious Young men: we have raised about eighty five dollars, & have had but one regular meeting. This amount to you may seem little to us it is cause of great encouragement. The first object of our inquiry is the benighted Empire of China; The first disbursement of our funds will be to send bibles to that people. Believing that the word of God is as its own blesse

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truths declare a lamp to the path and a light to the feet of all who become acquainted with its precepts, we have deemed it highly desirable that it should be generally diffused throughout every nation & particular in the extensive though degraded nation of China, where the pious Missionary is forbidden to go. The Young Ladies of this place stimulated by our example, formed a Society amongst themselves and have already surpassed us in the amount of funds raised for the same purpose, this Society be conducted upon the same plan. They have about one hundred dollars. Our primary object is to obtain information upon the subject of Missions, that we may be enabled thereby to act more knowingly and more efficiently. I wish as president of the Society, to open a correspondence with all similar societies, and Missionary associations in our country. By this means our views will be enlarged, our eyes will be opened, to the wants of the destitute & I trust our hearts, & treasures too will be opened to relieve the distresses of the destitute. Can I venture then so far to trespass upon your time as, to request from you any and all useful information which you may possess upon the subject, any thing which may tend to promote the cause of Missions, the cause of God amongst us? We are far removed from facilities for obtaining information upon this subject, so that such news will always be gladly received. I shall write to Boston Andover, Columbia, & Danville, and if there are any other places from which we might receive profitable information I shall be happy to have it suggested.

The religious aspect of the community in this State has in it nothing very promising at present. There have been no special revivings of Godliness amongst us though there seems to be a steady progress for the better. Tho, it is slow. I have been informed that, although you are at the chief emporium of orthodoxy in the worship of the true God, that nevertheless, you have a number of images, heathen deities. If this be true, surely you cannot have need of their *aid*, we would therefore be glad to obtain some of them, not because we believe in their virtue or power in savi[illegible] sinners, but, because an occular demo[illegible]tion of their Gods might stir up our minds to do good to a people so benighted.

As I hope, if it be the will of God, to meet you face to face in May next, I omit particularities.

Your direction will be, "Young Mens Society of inquiry in aid of F. Missions". Tuscaloosa Ala.

If you send a package, please direct to the care of St. Johns & Leavens, Mobile; D. Woodruff Tuscaloosa.

The Lord bless & Guide you.

With sentiments of much esteem & regard.

Your friend.

Gentlemen of the Society.

R. B. McMullen

Cr. to Doctor A[illegible]ander. The. Sem.

TUSKA. A.
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Society of Missionary Inquiry.
Princeton
New Jersey

Society of Inquiry
in aid of Missions
The young men of Tuscaloosa.
Feb 18. 1834.
Answd.